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Rockefeller Scores Law On Dynamite

By FRANCIS X. CLINES
Special to The New York Times

ALBANY, March 12 — Governor Rockefeller learned today of the relative ease with which dynamite can be obtained in most of the state and immediately urged that legislative remedies be considered in this session.

Referring to the series of explosions in the last week in New York City, the Governor said that "There's no question" the law has to be reviewed.

State officials explained today that outside of New York City, where the law is tighter, a person 18 years of age or older can obtain a permit in minutes to purchase dynamite or other explosives by filling out a form of 11 questions and paying 50 cents.

The form is not immediately checked, and the issuance of the permit by a village, town or city clerk depends on a self-certification, in which the applicant signs that he has not lied.

The City Clerk of Albany, Ralph E. Somerville, said that in practice "anybody can get a permit." There is no proof of residency or age requested by the Clerk's office "unless the applicant looks 15," Mr. Somerville said.

"Getting a marriage license is a more serious business than getting a dynamite license," he said.

Among the questions on the permit form are whether the applicant has ever been in prison or a mental institution and whether he is "disloyal or hostile to the United States." The applicant is asked to check off yes or no in reply.

Personal Knowledge Cited

A spokesman for the State Department of Labor, which oversees the permit issuance under a code set by the State Board of Standards and Appeals, said that the main guard against abuses of the law is the local clerk's familiarity with townsmen who might seek a permit.

Field investigations are made by Labor Department personnel, the spokesman said, when there is a question of whether a person who received a permit has an adequate storage area for explosives.

Mr. Somerville said that it was impossible for him to know every applicant and that in his 18 years on the job he had never had inquiries about explosives from state labor officals.

The New York Times (by William E. Sauro)

POLICE DISPOSE OF EXPLOSIVES: Dynamite found in the wreckage of Greenwich Village townhouse is detonated outside the Police Academy's firing range on City Island. Fifty-seven sticks, discovered at 18 West 11th Street, were exploded five at a time.